

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1 – 19: Cancelled

20. (Currently amended) A fixing device for a seat belt retractor for attachment to a vehicle part, comprising:

a seat belt retractor housing having a housing plate, wherein the housing plate has at least one fixing opening for receiving a screw connection engaging the vehicle part in a fixing opening formed thereon, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is rotatably disposed relative to the fixing opening of the vehicle part, so that the seat belt retractor is oriented automatically in a direction of a force of a belt which moves at an angle with respect to an axis of a shaft of the seat belt retractor; and

a holder part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is rotatably held on the holder part, wherein the holder part is fixedly connected with the vehicle part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is held by means of the holder part at a distance to the fixing opening, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is fixed to the holder part in such a way that the seat belt retractor housing is rotatable relative to the holder part in a direction opposite to a pre-set resistance, wherein the holder part is formed as a flat part with an opening for guiding through of an attachment means, wherein the attachment means serves to attach the holder part to the vehicle part, wherein the holder part has a further opening for rotatable attachment of the seat belt retractor housing to the holder part, wherein the housing plate of the seat belt retractor housing provided for connection of the holder part has an off-set region for receiving an

associated end of the holder part, and wherein the off-set region, together with the outer edges of the holder part, form a limitation for rotational movement of the seat belt retractor housing relative to the holder part.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The fixing device according to claim ~~24~~ 20, wherein attachment of the seat belt retractor housing to the holder part takes place by means of a rivet penetrating the further opening of the holder part and the fixing opening of the housing plate of the seat belt retractor housing.

23. (Currently amended) The fixing device according to claim ~~24~~ 20, wherein the holder part rests on the flat housing plate of the seat belt retractor housing provided with the fixing opening.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to claim 21, wherein the holder part has a fixing shoulder projecting at an angle from the holder part, wherein the fixing shoulder is insertable into a further opening formed in the vehicle part.

26. (Currently amended) ~~The A fixing device according to claim 20, for a seat belt retractor for attachment to a vehicle part, comprising:~~

a seat belt retractor housing having a housing plate, wherein the housing plate has at least one fixing opening for receiving a screw connection engaging the vehicle part in a fixing opening formed thereon, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is rotatably disposed relative to the fixing opening of the vehicle part, so that the seat belt retractor is oriented automatically in a direction of a force of a belt which moves at an angle with respect to an axis of a shaft of the seat belt retractor; and

a holder part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is rotatably held on the

holder part, wherein the holder part is fixedly connected with the vehicle part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is held by means of the holder part at a distance to the fixing opening, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is fixed to the holder part in such a way that the seat belt retractor housing is rotatable relative to the holder part in a direction opposite to a pre-set resistance, wherein the holder part comprises a collar screw that penetrates through the fixing opening of the housing plate of the seat belt retractor housing, wherein the collar screw is fixed with an end threading in the fixing opening of the vehicle part, wherein the collar screw has a collar and a screw head, wherein the collar braces against the vehicle part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing sits, via the fixing opening, on the collar of the collar screw and is held by means of the screw head, and wherein a pre-stressed spring element is arranged on the collar of the collar screw between the vehicle part and the seat belt retractor housing.

27. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to claim 26, wherein the spring element comprises a plate spring.

28. (Currently amended) The A fixing device according to claim 20, for a seat belt retractor for attachment to a vehicle part, comprising:

a seat belt retractor housing having a housing plate, wherein the housing plate has at least one fixing opening for receiving a screw connection engaging the vehicle part in a fixing opening formed thereon, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is rotatably disposed relative to the fixing opening of the vehicle part, so that the seat belt retractor is oriented automatically in a direction of a force of a belt which moves at an angle with respect to an axis of a shaft of the seat belt retractor; and

a holder part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is rotatably held on the

holder part, wherein the holder part is fixedly connected with the vehicle part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is held by means of the holder part at a distance to the fixing opening, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is fixed to the holder part in such a way that the seat belt retractor housing is rotatable relative to the holder part in a direction opposite to a pre-set resistance, wherein the holder part is a U-shaped component having U-plates U-shaped plates, wherein said U-plates U-shaped plates include a plurality of openings, wherein said U-shaped component is attachable onto the housing plate having the fixing opening, wherein the U-shaped component accommodates the housing plate between the U-plates U-shaped plates, whereby the openings in the U-plates U-shaped plates of the holder part are flush with the fixing opening of the housing plate, wherein one of the U-plates U-shaped plates of the holder part, upon mounting of the seat belt retractor onto the vehicle part, rests between the vehicle part and the housing plate.

29. (Currently amended) The fixing device according to claim 28, further comprising a fixing nut that can be screwed via a fixing screw into the fixing opening formed in the vehicle part, wherein the fixing screw is a collar nut having a collar, wherein a height of the collar corresponds to a material thickness of the housing plate of the seat belt retractor housing inclusive of a material thickness of the ~~U-plate~~ U-shaped plate of the holder part lying between the vehicle part and the housing plate.

30. (Currently amended) The fixing device according to claim 28, wherein an intermediate space is formed by the ~~U-plate~~ U-shaped plate of the holder part lying between the vehicle part and housing plate of the seat belt retractor housing, and wherein a spring element is disposed in the intermediate space.

31. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to claim 30, wherein

the spring element is formed as a plate spring.

32. (Currently amended) The fixing device according to claim 28, wherein projections are formed on the ~~U-plate~~ U-shaped plate of the holder part facing away from the vehicle part, wherein said projections at least partially surround the opening formed therein, and wherein said projections serve as a mounting holder and anti-twist device for a fixing nut.

33. (Currently amended) The fixing device according to claim 28, wherein on the ~~U-plate~~ U-shaped plate of the holder part facing away from the vehicle part, a fixing nut is fixedly mounted to be oriented with the opening formed thereon.

34. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to claim 28, wherein the holder part has a fixing shoulder projecting from the holder part at an angle for engagement in an associated further opening of the vehicle part.

35. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to claim 34, wherein the holder part penetrates the housing plate of the seat belt retractor in an associated further recess via the fixing shoulder.

36. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to claim 20, wherein the holder part comprises metal, wherein a fixing nut is provided on the holder part, and wherein the fixing nut is formed as a weld nut that is fixedly connected with the holder part.

37. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to claim 20, wherein the holder part comprises plastic, wherein a fixing nut is provided on the holder part, and wherein the fixing nut is connected as one piece with the holder part.

38. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ fixing device according to claim 20, for a seat belt retractor for attachment to a vehicle part, comprising:

a seat belt retractor housing having a housing plate, wherein the housing plate has at least one fixing opening for receiving a screw connection engaging the vehicle part in a fixing opening formed thereon, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is rotatably disposed relative to the fixing opening of the vehicle part, so that the seat belt retractor is oriented automatically in a direction of a force of a belt which moves at an angle with respect to an axis of a shaft of the seat belt retractor;

a holder part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is rotatably held on the holder part, wherein the holder part is fixedly connected with the vehicle part, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is held by means of the holder part at a distance to the fixing opening, wherein the seat belt retractor housing is fixed to the holder part in such a way that the seat belt retractor housing is rotatable relative to the holder part in a direction opposite to a pre-set resistance, wherein the holder part comprises a collar nut with a collar, wherein the collar nut penetrates through the fixing opening of the housing plate via the collar and wherein the collar nut can be screwed onto a fixing screw anchored on the vehicle part, wherein the collar abuts the vehicle part or the fixing screw, wherein the seat belt retractor housing sits rotatably with the fixing opening on the collar of the collar nut, and

~~further comprising~~ a holding sheet, wherein the holding sheet is disposed on a side of the housing plate facing away from the vehicle part and is held on the collar of the collar nut, wherein said holding sheet engages through an associated further recess in the housing plate via a fixing shoulder projecting from the holding sheet at an angle, wherein said fixing shoulder can be fixedly, non-rotatably disposed in a further opening formed in the vehicle part, and further comprising a tongue, wherein the seat belt retractor housing, by means of the tongue projecting into the recess and guided

through an aperture formed in the fixing shoulder, is fixed relative to the holding sheet, wherein under a load, the seat belt retractor housing is rotatable as a result of deformation of the tongue engaging through the fixing shoulder.